

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting a class loader [[for]] to load a plug-in class within a class loader hierarchy, the method comprising the steps of:

~~providing a class loader hierarchy, wherein the class loader hierarchy includes a plurality of class loaders; and~~

~~generating a class loader hierarchy comprising a plurality of class loaders that includes two or more application class loaders, one for each of two or more application classes, wherein each of said application class loaders can selectively load its application class, or delegate the loading of its application class to another class loader of said class loader hierarchy;~~

~~providing a different plug-in class loader for each class loader in the class loader hierarchy, wherein each plug-in class loader delegates to a respective its corresponding class loader[.];~~

~~identifying the class loader of said hierarchy that is used to load a specified one of said two or more application classes; and~~

~~using the plug-in class loader that is provided for and delegates to said identified class loader to load a plug-in class that is associated with said specified application class.~~
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the plurality of class loaders includes a boot class loader.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the plurality of class loaders includes an extension class loader, wherein the extension class loader delegates to the boot class loader.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the plurality of class loaders includes a system class loader, wherein the system class loader delegates to the extension class loader.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the ~~plurality of class loaders includes one or more application class loaders, wherein the one~~ two or more application class loaders delegate to the system class loader.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
~~responsive to an application class loading a plug-in class, identifying a class loader within the class loader hierarchy that loaded the application class;~~
identifying [[a]] said plug-in class loader that is provided for and delegates to said identified the application class loader[[;]].
~~loading the plug-in class using the plug-in class loader.~~

8. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
responsive to a first application class loading a first plug-in class, identifying a target class loader within the class loader hierarchy that loaded a target class;
identifying a plug-in class loader that is provided for and delegates to the target class loader; and
loading the first plug-in class using the plug-in class loader.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of identifying a target class loader within the class loader hierarchy that loaded a target class includes using a class loader that loaded the application class to look up the target class.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
responsive to a second application class loading a second plug-in class, identifying the target class loader within the class loader hierarchy that loaded the target class;
identifying the plug-in class loader that is provided for and delegates to the target class loader;
and
loading the second plug-in class using the plug-in class loader.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the first plug-in class and the second plug-in class share data.

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for selecting a class loader [[for]] to load a plug-in class within a class loader hierarchy, the apparatus comprising:
~~means for providing a class loader hierarchy, wherein the class loader hierarchy includes a plurality of class loaders; and~~
~~means for generating a class loader hierarchy comprising a plurality of class loaders that includes two or more application class loaders, one for each of two or more application classes, wherein each of~~

said application class loaders can selectively load its application class, or delegate the loading of its application class to another class loader of said class loader hierarchy;

means for providing a different plug-in class loader for each class loader in the class loader hierarchy, wherein each plug-in class loader delegates to a respective its corresponding class loader[.].

means for identifying the class loader of said hierarchy that is used to load a specified one of said two or more application classes; and

means for using the plug-in class loader that is provided for and delegates to said identified class loader to load a plug-in class that is associated with said specified application class

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the plurality of class loaders includes a boot class loader.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the plurality of class loaders includes an extension class loader, wherein the extension class loader delegates to the boot class loader.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the plurality of class loaders includes a system class loader, wherein the system class loader delegates to the extension class loader.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the plurality of class loaders includes one or more application class loaders, wherein the one two or more application class loaders delegate to the system class loader.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising:

~~means, responsive to an application class loading a plug-in class, for identifying a class loader within the class loader hierarchy that loaded the application class;~~

means for identifying [[a]] said plug-in class loader that is provided for and delegates to the application said identified class loader[[; and]].

~~means for loading the plug-in class using the plug-in class loader.~~

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising:

responsive to a first application class loading a first plug-in class, identifying a target class loader within the class loader hierarchy that loaded a target class;

identifying a plug-in class loader that is provided for and delegates to the target class loader; and loading the first plug-in class using the plug-in class loader.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the means for identifying a target class loader within the class loader hierarchy that loaded a target class includes means for using a class loader that loaded the application class to look up the target class.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising:
means, responsive to a second application class loading a second plug-in class, for identifying the target class loader within the class loader hierarchy that loaded the target class;
means for identifying the plug-in class loader that is provided for and delegates to the target class loader; and
means for loading the second plug-in class using the plug-in class loader.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the first plug-in class and the second plug-in class share data.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, in a computer readable medium, for selecting a class loader [[for]] to load a plug-in class within a class loader hierarchy, the computer program product comprising:
~~a class loader hierarchy, wherein the class loader hierarchy includes a plurality of class loaders;~~
~~and~~
first instructions for generating a class loader hierarchy comprising a plurality of class loaders that includes two or more application class loaders, one for each of two or more application classes, wherein each of said application class loaders can selectively load its application class, or delegate the loading of its application class to another class loader of said class loader hierarchy;
second instructions for providing a different [[a]] plug-in class loader for each class loader in the class loader hierarchy, wherein each plug-in class loader delegates to a respective its corresponding class loader[.]];
third instructions for identifying the class loader of said hierarchy that is used to load a specified one of said two or more application classes; and
fourth instructions for using the plug-in class loader that is provided for and delegates to said identified class loader to load a plug-in class that is associated with said specified application class.